

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A digital media receiver, comprising:

one or more openly visible indicators that display a wireless network signal strength.

5 2. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising a digital media receiver application component, wherein the one or more openly visible indicators comprise an openly visible indicator;

wherein the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless network signal strength into one of a plurality of signal strength levels;

10 wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the openly visible indicator to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the one of the plurality of signal strength levels.

3. The digital media receiver of claim 2, wherein the openly visible indicator comprises a light emitting diode capable of displaying any one of a plurality of colors

15 associated with the plurality of signal strength levels;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the light emitting diode to display one of the plurality of colors associated with the one of the plurality of signal strength levels.

4. The digital media receiver of claim 3, wherein the one of the plurality of signal strength levels comprise a first signal strength level, wherein the plurality of signal strength levels comprise a second signal strength level;

wherein upon a change in the wireless network signal strength from the first signal strength level to the second signal strength level, the digital media receiver application component changes a color of the light emitting diode to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level.

5. The digital media receiver of claim 2, wherein the plurality of signal strength levels comprise three or more signal strength levels;

10 wherein upon measurement of the wireless network signal strength, the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless network signal strength into any one of the three or more signal strength levels;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the openly visible indicator to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the one of the three or more signal strength levels.

6. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising a digital media receiver application component, wherein the one or more openly visible indicators comprise a plurality of light emitting diodes;

wherein the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless network signal strength into a first signal strength level of a plurality of signal strength levels;

20 wherein the digital media receiver application component employs a first light emitting diode of the plurality of light emitting diodes to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the first signal strength level.

7. The digital media receiver of claim 6, wherein the plurality of signal strength levels comprise the first signal strength level, a second signal strength level, and a third signal strength level;

5 wherein the first light emitting diode is capable of displaying a first color associated with the first signal strength level, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes comprise a second light emitting diode capable of displaying a second color associated with the second signal strength level and a third light emitting diode capable of displaying a third color associated with the third signal strength level;

10 wherein the digital media receiver application component activates the first light emitting diode if the wireless network signal strength is at the first signal strength level, the second light emitting diode if the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level, and the third light emitting diode if the wireless network signal strength is at the third signal strength level.

8. The digital media receiver of claim 7, wherein upon a change in the wireless
15 network signal strength from the first signal strength level to the second signal strength level, the digital media receiver application component switches off the first light emitting diode and switches on the second light emitting diode to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level.

9. The digital media receiver of claim 6, wherein the plurality of signal strength levels comprise three signal strength levels, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes comprise three or more light emitting diodes;

wherein the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless
5 network signal strength into any one of the three or more signal strength levels;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs any one or more of the three or more light emitting diodes to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the one of the three or more signal strength levels.

10. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising an antenna and a
10 digital media receiver application component;

wherein the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless network signal strength into a first signal strength level of a plurality of signal strength levels;

wherein the digital media receiver application component sets one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators to a first indicator state to display that the wireless network
15 signal strength is at the first signal strength level;

wherein a user adjusts a position of the antenna to cause a change in the wireless network signal strength from the first signal strength level to a second signal strength level of the plurality of signal strength levels;

wherein upon the change, the digital media receiver application component sets one
20 or more of the one or more openly visible indicators to a second indicator state to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level.

11. The digital media receiver of claim 10, wherein the antenna comprises a swivel antenna, wherein the user adjusts a position of the swivel antenna to cause a change in the wireless network signal strength from the first signal strength level to the second signal strength level;

5 wherein upon the change, the digital media receiver application component sets one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators to the second indicator state to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level.

12. The digital media receiver of claim 10, wherein the one or more of the one or more antennas comprise a removable antenna, wherein the user adjusts a position of the
10 removable antenna to cause a change in the wireless network signal strength from the first signal strength level to the second signal strength level;

wherein upon the change, the digital media receiver application component sets one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators to the second indicator state to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level.

13. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising a digital media
15 receiver application component, wherein the one or more openly visible indicators comprise one or more stand-alone displays;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the one or more stand-alone displays to allow one or more users to plainly view the wireless network signal
20 strength.

14. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising a digital media receiver application component, wherein the one or more openly visible indicators comprise one or more status bar indicators;

wherein the digital media receiver application component classifies the wireless network signal strength into one of a plurality of signal strength levels;

wherein the one or more status bar indicators comprise one or more status bar sizes, wherein the digital media receiver application component changes one or more of the one or more status bar sizes to display that the wireless network signal strength is at the one of the plurality of signal strength levels.

10 15. The digital media receiver of claim 1, further comprising a digital media receiver application component;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs one or more digital media signals obtained through a wireless home network between one or more of a television, an audio/video receiver, a computer, and an alarm clock to determine the wireless network signal strength.

16. An apparatus, comprising:

a digital media receiver application component that determines a signal strength level of a wireless network signal and employs one or more openly visible indicators to display the signal strength level.

5 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the wireless network signal comprises a wireless network signal strength;

wherein the digital media receiver application component obtains the wireless network signal strength from the wireless network signal through a wireless network card;

10 wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the wireless network signal strength to determine the signal strength level.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wireless network signal comprises an audio signal, wherein the wireless network signal strength comprises an audio signal strength, wherein the signal strength level comprises an audio signal strength level;

15 wherein the digital media receiver application component obtains the audio signal strength from the audio signal at the wireless network card;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the audio signal strength to determine the audio signal strength level.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the digital media receiver application component makes a comparison of the audio signal strength level with one or more audio signal threshold values;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the comparison to
5 identify one or more of the one or more audio signal threshold values that the audio signal strength level surpasses;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the one or more of the one or more audio signal threshold values that the audio signal strength level surpasses to display the audio signal strength level with the one or more openly visible indicators.

10 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the audio signal strength level to determine a quality of the audio signal.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wireless network signal comprises a video signal, wherein the wireless network signal strength comprises a video signal strength, wherein the signal strength level comprises one of a plurality of video signal strength levels;

15 wherein the digital media receiver application component obtains the video signal strength from the video signal at the wireless network card;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the video signal strength to determine the video signal strength level.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the digital media receiver application component makes a comparison of the video signal strength level with one or more video signal threshold values;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the comparison to
5 identify one or more of the one or more video signal threshold values that the video signal strength level surpasses;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the one or more of the one or more audio signal threshold values that the video signal strength level surpasses display the video signal strength level with the one or more openly visible indicators.

10 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the video signal strength level to determine a quality of the video signal.

24. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wireless network signal comprises a digital image signal, wherein the wireless network signal strength comprises a digital image signal strength, wherein the signal strength level comprises a digital image signal strength
15 level;

wherein the digital media receiver application component obtains the digital image signal strength from the digital image signal at the wireless network card;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the digital image signal strength to determine the digital image signal strength level.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the digital media receiver application component makes a comparison of the digital image signal strength level with one or more video signal threshold values;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the comparison to
5 identify one or more of the one or more video signal threshold values that the digital image signal strength level surpasses;

wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the one or more of the one or more audio signal threshold values that the digital image signal strength level surpasses to display the digital image signal strength level with the one or more openly
10 visible indicators.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the digital media receiver application component employs the digital image signal strength level to determine a quality of the digital image signal.

27. An apparatus, comprising:

means for classifying a wireless network signal into one of a plurality of signal strength levels; and

means for openly displaying an indication that the wireless network signal is at the one of the plurality of signal strength levels.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for classifying the wireless network signal into the one of the plurality of signal strength levels comprise means for comparing the one of the plurality of signal strength levels with one or more signal threshold values.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for openly displaying the indication that the wireless network signal is at the one of the plurality of signal strength levels comprise means for openly displaying the one of the plurality of signal strength levels through the identification of one or more signal threshold values that the one of the plurality of signal strength levels surpasses.

30. A method, comprising:

classifying one or more wireless network signals employable by a digital media receiver into one or more of a plurality of signal strength levels; and

displaying the one or more of the plurality of signal strength levels with one or more
5 openly visible indicators of the digital media receiver.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the one or more of the plurality of signal strength levels comprise one or more of a plurality of audio signal strength levels, a plurality of video signal strength levels, and a plurality of digital image signal strength levels, wherein the step of displaying the one or more of the plurality of signal strength levels with the one or
10 more openly visible indicators of the digital media receiver comprises the steps of:

making a comparison of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels with one or more of an audio signal threshold value, a video signal threshold value, and a digital image signal threshold value respectively; and

15 employing the comparison to display that the one or more wireless network signals are at the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels with the one or more openly visible indicators.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the one or more of the audio signal threshold value, the video signal threshold value, and the digital image signal threshold value comprise one or more of a first audio signal threshold value, a first video signal threshold value, and a first digital image signal threshold value, wherein the step of making the comparison of the one or more of a plurality of audio signal strength levels, a plurality of video signal strength levels, and a plurality of digital image signal strength levels with the one or more of the audio signal threshold value, the video signal threshold value, and the digital image signal threshold value comprises the steps of:

making the comparison of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels with the first audio signal threshold value, the first video signal threshold value, and the first digital image signal threshold value respectively;

employing the comparison to determine if the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels surpass the first audio signal threshold value, the first video signal threshold value, and the first digital image signal threshold value respectively; and

displaying one or more of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels that surpass the first audio signal threshold value, the first video signal threshold value, and the first digital image signal threshold value with one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a first indicator state.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the one or more of the audio signal threshold value, the video signal threshold value, and the digital image signal threshold value comprise one or more of a second audio signal threshold value, a second video signal threshold value, and a second digital image signal threshold value, the method further comprising the steps of:

5 making the comparison of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels with the second audio signal threshold value, the second video signal threshold value, and the second digital image signal threshold value respectively;

employing the comparison to determine if the one or more of the plurality of audio
10 signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels surpass the second audio signal threshold value, the second video signal threshold value, and the second digital image signal threshold value respectively; and

displaying one or more of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength
levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal
15 strength levels that surpass the second audio signal threshold value, the second video signal threshold value, and the second digital image signal threshold value with one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a second indicator state.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the one or more of the audio signal threshold value, the video signal threshold value, and the digital image signal threshold value comprise one or more of a third audio signal threshold value, a third video signal threshold value, and a third digital image signal threshold value, the method further comprising the steps of:

5 making the comparison of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels with the third audio signal threshold value, the third video signal threshold value, and the third digital image signal threshold value respectively; and

employing the comparison to determine if one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels surpass the third audio signal threshold value, the third video signal threshold value, and the third digital image signal threshold value respectively; and

10 displaying one or more of the one or more of the plurality of audio signal strength levels, the plurality of video signal strength levels, and the plurality of digital image signal strength levels that surpass the third audio signal threshold value, the third video signal threshold value, and the third digital image signal threshold value with one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a third indicator state.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the one or more wireless network signals comprise a wireless network signal, wherein the one or more of the plurality of signal strength levels comprise a signal strength level, wherein the step of classifying the one or more wireless network signals employable by the digital media receiver into the one or more of the plurality of signal strength levels comprises the steps of:

obtaining a wireless network signal strength of the wireless network signal from a wireless network card; and

25 employing the wireless network signal strength to determine the signal strength level.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of employing the wireless network signal strength to determine the signal strength level comprises the steps of:

classifying the wireless network signal strength into the signal strength level; and

displaying that the wireless network signal strength is at the signal strength level with
5 one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a first indicator state.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the signal strength level comprises a first signal strength level, the method further comprising the steps of:

classifying the wireless network signal strength into a second signal strength level;

and

10 displaying that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level with one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a second indicator state upon the wireless network signal strength changing to the second signal strength level.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the signal strength level comprises a first signal strength level, wherein the step of classifying the wireless network signal strength into
15 the signal strength level comprises the steps of:

classifying the wireless network signal strength into a second signal strength level upon a user repositioning one or more antennas; and

displaying that the wireless network signal strength is at the second signal strength level with one or more of the one or more openly visible indicators at a second indicator state
20 upon the wireless network signal strength changing to the second signal strength level.

39. An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media; and

means in the one or more media for classifying one or more wireless network signals
employable by a digital media receiver into one or more of a plurality of signal strength
5 levels; and

means in the one or more media for displaying the one or more of the plurality of
signal strength levels with one or more openly visible indicators of the digital media receiver.

* * * * *